

CLAIMS:-

1. An apparatus for heat treatment of glass articles or the like comprising an oven for receiving one or more glass articles or the like, heater means for heating a fluid medium which is introduced, in use, to an article or articles in the oven, the fluid medium being circulated or recirculated around the article or articles in order to heat up said article or articles in a closely controlled manner by the use of first and second control means, the first control means being arranged, in use, to vary the temperature of a fluid medium and the second control means being arranged, in use, to vary the velocity of a fluid medium introduced to said article or articles.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1 in which the first and second control means are arranged to co-operate with one another automatically.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 in which the second control means varies the velocity of the fluid medium in response to the temperature of the glass article or articles in the oven.
4. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3 in which sensor means is provided for sensing the temperature of the glass article or articles.
5. An apparatus according to claim 4 in which the sensor is a pyrometer.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4 or 5 in which automatic means is provided for selectively varying the temperature and/or velocity of a fluid medium in response to the temperature sensed by the sensor means.
7. An apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3 in which fluid temperature sensor means is provided for sensing the temperature of the fluid medium in order to control the output of the heater means.
8. An apparatus according to any preceding claim in which an impeller is provided to circulate or recirculate fluid medium around the articles.
9. An apparatus according to any preceding claim in which baffle wall portions are provided to help direct fluid medium over the article or articles in a controlled way.
10. An apparatus according to any preceding claim in which the output of the heater means is variable in response to temperature of the fluid medium being circulated or recirculated.
11. An apparatus according to claim 10 in which a fluid medium temperature sensor is provided near to the article or articles being heat treated.

20

12. An apparatus according to claim 11 in which the signal from the fluid medium temperature sensor controls the heater means via a P.I.D. control.

13. An apparatus according to claim 4 in which the sensor means for sensing the temperature of the glass article or articles is connected via a P.I.D. control to control velocity of the air being recirculated in the oven.

14. A method of heat treatment of glass articles or the like comprising heat treating said articles in a closely controlled manner under dual control comprising controlling the heat output of a heater means and the velocity of fluid medium being circulated or recirculated in a chamber zone of an oven.

15. A method according to claim 14 in which the method includes sensing the temperature of the glass article or the like so as to vary the velocity of fluid medium being circulated.

16. A method according to claim 14 or 15 in which the heat output of the heater means is controlled by a sensor sensing the temperature of the fluid medium.

17. A method according to claim 14, 15 or 16 and where the glass articles are flat Cathode Ray Tubes, the method comprising positioning Cathode Ray Tubes vertically and parallel to one another on a vacuum cart proceeding

Add A2